



8075 Ritter, Center Line, MI 48015
2600 Pontiac Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

(586)757-5551
www.ivcinfo.org

INFORMATION FOR CONGREGATIONS

(revised 6/10/12)

WHAT IS THE INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS PROGRAM?

The IVC program is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works with local congregations to provide volunteer support for the older and disabled adults in our community who need just a little extra help to get by at home. Our volunteers:

- **drive people to doctor's appointments and other essential errands,**
- **visit and call lonely and isolated individuals,**
- **stay with ill relatives so that their family caregivers can have a break,**
- **perform minor home repairs, yardwork, and housekeeping, &**
- **help our struggling neighbors with a variety of other tasks that enable them to stay at home.**

OUR MISSION:

We work with congregations, community groups, and concerned individuals to further our dual goals:

1. **to respond to the ever-growing needs of older and physically challenged adults living in our communities who struggle daily to maintain their independence at home; &**
2. **to provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers of all ages and abilities to enrich their lives and live out their faith by helping others.**

WAYS CONGREGATIONS CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE PROGRAM:

• Building a Caregiving Group within your Congregation

Several of our member congregations have identified a "liaison" or two to coordinate these caregiving efforts right within their own community. This is usually a lay person who takes on the responsibility of matching volunteers from within the congregation with people in need of a little extra help. Utilizing this lay leadership often frees up the time of congregation staff who usually handle such requests, and it ensures that a single person or two are focusing their energies on this project, so that it can grow and thrive within the congregation. This method keeps all the ownership and management of the program right in the hands of the congregation to more effectively meet the unique needs of the congregation itself. IVC staff provide all the training and support needed to equip liaisons for their role during a series of individualized meetings, and the liaisons from all around the community gather regularly with one another for sharing and support.

• Other Ways to be Involved:

Congregations that are not currently in a position to identify "liaisons" can work us in a variety of other ways:

- ✓ **help govern and steer our program by appointing a representative to work on our Board of Directors or one of its Committees,**
- ✓ **provide financial support directly through the congregation's budget or dedicate a special collection or fund to MCIVC,**
- ✓ **organize a fundraising event for MCIVC at your location,**
- ✓ **offer a portion of your own fundraising event (10%?) to MCIVC,**
- ✓ **provide in-kind support to our program, such as supplies, equipment, professional services,**
- ✓ **promote our special events at your congregation --sell tickets, make announcements at services, etc.,**
- ✓ **run our ads for volunteers in your bulletins/newsletters, or refer volunteers directly to our office,**
- ✓ **refer older or disabled adults in need of help to our program office,**
- ✓ **hold one of our volunteer enrichment meetings in your facility,**

- ✓ **sign up current volunteers in your congregation who work with the homebound as members of our network** *(These volunteers would not be asked to do additional work, but they would receive all the benefits of being an IVC volunteer, such as insurance coverage, opportunities for continued education and training, and public recognition of their important work).*

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM:

TO CONGREGATIONS:

- a comprehensive, yet flexible, model for outreach to our older and disabled neighbors.
- an opportunity to share resources with neighboring congregations.
- an opportunity to share the caregiving ministry with members of the congregation, reducing the current work load of staff and increasing the congregation's ability to serve.
- liability insurance for all program volunteers.
- community-wide trainings and workshops for all volunteers and interested congregation members.
- information on other local service agencies that can provide additional assistance for those in need.
- the opportunity to be part of an active community-wide interfaith project.

TO FRAIL, OLDER, AND DISABLED ADULTS:

- the help they need to remain safe and secure in their own homes and avoid unnecessary or premature admission to a nursing home.
- practical assistance, as well as companionship and emotional support.
- a way to be re-connected to the community for those who are homebound and isolated.

TO INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS:

- an opportunity to live out their faith by reaching out to their neighbors in need.
- individualized matching with, and introduction to, the person(s) they will be helping.
- training, education, and support to ensure them success in their roles.
- insurance and other volunteer materials to assist them in their work.

TO THE COMMUNITY:

- a cost-effective way to care for older and disabled neighbors, while preserving their dignity & independence.
- an enhanced sense of “community,” as people re-connect with their own neighbors.

CURRENT EFFORTS:

Many local congregations already have active IVC volunteers within their membership, but may not be aware of it. Likewise, we have helped hundreds of individuals in the community, some of whom may very well be current members of your congregation. We have been in existence since 1992, and in that time we have registered over **3,400 volunteers** and served nearly **2,300 older and disabled adults**. This makes our program one of the largest volunteer efforts in the Metropolitan Detroit area.

FINANCES:

Because over half of the individuals we serve live near or below the poverty line, we do not charge for services. We depend upon the local community for the majority of our income. Our program is an IRS tax-exempt charitable organization that raises most of its funding from congregational support, individual donations, and local fundraising events. We also receive grants from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, MORC and SMART, as well as other local foundations. We receive donations of professional services, equipment and supplies from many local businesses. Less than 12% of our budget goes toward fundraising and administration.

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Program staff are always happy to come out and talk with congregation staff, lay leaders, service commissions, church councils, outreach & mission committees, and any other interested groups to share more information about the program. We can be reached at (586) 757-5551.